

Wayne Allard

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ALLARD OPPOSES FEE DEMO PROGRAM SAYS TOO MANY PROBLEMS WITH CURRENT PROGRAM

Durango, CO – Colorado U.S. Senator Wayne Allard said Monday that he will oppose making the current Recreational Fee Demonstration Program, administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, permanent when it expires in 2004. Allard made his decision public during town meetings held in Ridgway, Placerville, Dove Creek and Cortez.

“For some time I have had concerns over how the U.S. Forest Service has been administering the fee demo program,” said Allard. “After considerable study of the current program and personal discussions with many citizens and local elected officials, I have come to the conclusion that this program is not working in several areas of Colorado.”

Allard added that he will oppose legislation introduced this session in Congress to make the fee demo permanent. U.S. Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-CO) also opposes making the program permanent.

“At this time there are just too many concerns with the program,” added Allard. “The demonstration program was intended by Congress to be a way of helping the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to offset the increased use of our public lands. It clearly has not worked in certain areas of Colorado and we may need to go back to the drawing board if we can not address those problems.”

Allard will restate his opposition to making the fee demo program permanent at town meetings on Tuesday in Durango, Silverton and Pagosa Springs.

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